AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for optimizing a tour having a first segment with an origination point and a destination point and a second segment with an origination point and a destination point, comprising steps implemented by a computer processor of:

receiving first load data about a first load and second load data about a second load, using the computer processor;

evaluating a fit of the first load data on the first segment and a fit of the second load data on the ~~second~~ first segment, using the computer processor, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

determining a common carrier cost for putting the first load on a common carrier, using the computer processor;

determining a dedicated cost for putting the first load on the first segment, using the computer processor; and

setting a savings criteria for the first segment as the difference between the common carrier cost and the dedicated cost, using the computer processor;

evaluating a fit of the first load data on the second segment and a fit of the second load data on the second segment, using the computer processor;

ranking, in a first list comprising available loads for the first segment, the

relative fits of the first load data and the second load data against

the first segment, using the computer processor;

ranking, in a second list comprising available loads for the second

segment, the relative fits of the first load data and the second load

data against the second segment, using the computer processor;

assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the first list to the

first segment and removing that load from the second list, using the

computer processor; ~~and~~

assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the second list to the

second segment, using the computer processor; and

storing the tour using the assigned loads on a memory coupled to the

processor.

2.   (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein

evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises evaluating key

parameters of the first load data, wherein the key parameters include one or

more of a time criteria, a distance criteria, and a savings criteria.

3.   (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein

evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

checking a latest ready delivery date of the first load data against the first

segment's estimated end date; and

if the latest ready delivery date is greater than the estimated end date,

setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

checking a latest load ready date of the first load data against the first

segment's estimated start date; and

if the latest load ready date is less than the estimated start date, setting

the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the distance criteria include one or more of a segment deadhead criteria, load deadhead criteria, and tour mileage criteria.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

computing the segment deadhead resulting from assigning the first load to

the first segment; and

if the computed segment deadhead is greater than the segment deadhead

criteria, setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first

segment.

7.   (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

  computing the total tour deadhead that would result from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

  if the computed total tour deadhead is greater than the load deadhead criteria, setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

8.   (Previously Presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, wherein evaluating the fit of the first load data further comprises:

  computing the total tour mileage that would result from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

  if the computed total tour mileage is greater than the tour mileage criteria, setting the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

9-13. (Canceled)

14.   (Previously Presented) A system for optimizing a tour having a first segment with an origination point and a destination point and a second segment with an origination point and a destination point comprising:

  a memory; and

  a microprocessor coupled to the memory and programmed to:

receive first load data about a first load and second load

      data about a second load;

evaluate a fit of the first load data on the first segment and a

      fit of the second load data on the first segment,

      wherein the microprocessor evaluates the fit of the

      first load data by being further programmed to:

            determine a common carrier cost for putting

                the first load on a common carrier;

            determine a dedicated cost for putting the first

                load on the first segment; and

            set the savings criteria as the difference

                between the common carrier cost and

                the dedicated cost;

evaluate a fit of the first load data on the second segment

      and a fit of the second load data on the second

      segment;

rank, in a first list comprising available loads for the first

      segment, the relative fits of the first load data and the

      second load data against the first segment;

rank, in a second list comprising available loads for the

      second segment, the relative fits of the first load data

      and the second load data against the second

      segment;

assign the load having the highest ranking fit from the first

list to the first segment and removing that load from

the second list; and

assign the load having the highest ranking fit from the

second list to the second segment.

15.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14, wherein the microprocessor is

further programmed to evaluate key parameters of the first load data as part of

evaluating the fit of the first load data, wherein the key parameters include one or

more of a time criteria, a distance criteria, and a savings criteria.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

check a latest ready delivery date of the first load data against the first

segment's estimated end date; and

if the latest ready delivery date is greater than the estimated end date, set

the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

check a latest load ready date of the first load data against the first

segment's estimated start date; and

if the latest load ready date is less than the estimated start date, set the

first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the distance criteria include one or

more of a segment deadhead criteria, load deadhead criteria, and tour mileage

criteria.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

compute the segment deadhead resulting from assigning the first load to

the first segment; and

if the computed segment deadhead is greater than the segment deadhead

criteria, set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first

segment.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

compute the total tour deadhead that would result from assigning the first

load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour deadhead is greater than the load deadhead

criteria, set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first

segment.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the microprocessor is further

programmed to:

compute the total tour mileage that would result from assigning the first

load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour mileage is greater than the tour mileage criteria,

set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

22-26. (Canceled)

27.   (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium containing

instructions for optimizing a tour having a first segment with an origination point

and a destination point and a second segment with an origination point and a

destination point, the instructions, when executed by a processor, causing the

processor to perform stages comprising:

receiving first load data about a first load and second load data about a

second load;

evaluating a fit of the first load data on the first segment and a fit of the

second load data on the first segment, wherein evaluating the fit of

the first load data on the first segment further comprises:

determining a common carrier cost for putting the first load

on a common carrier;

determining a dedicated cost for putting the first load on the

first segment; and

setting a savings criteria as the difference between the

common carrier cost and the dedicated cost;

evaluating a fit of the first load data on the second segment and a fit of the

second load data on the second segment;

ranking, in a first list comprising available loads for the first segment, the

relative fits of the first load data and the second load data against

the first segment;

ranking, in a second list comprising available loads for the second

segment, the relative fits of the first load data and the second load

data against the second segment;

assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the first list to the

first segment and removing that load from the second list; and

assigning the load having the highest ranking fit from the second list to the

second segment.

28.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 27,

wherein the stages further comprise key parameters of the first load data,

wherein the key parameters include one or more of a time criteria, a distance

criteria, and a savings criteria.

29.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 28, wherein the stages further comprise:

      checking a latest ready delivery date of the first load data against the first segment's estimated end date; and

      setting, if the latest ready delivery date is greater than the estimated end date, the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

30.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 28, wherein the stages further comprise:

      checking a latest load ready date of the first load data against the first segment's estimated start date; and

      setting, if the latest load ready date is less than the estimated start date, the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

31.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 28, wherein the distance criteria include one or more of a segment deadhead criteria, load deadhead criteria, and tour mileage criteria.

32.   (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the stages further comprise:

      computing the segment deadhead resulting from assigning the first load to the first segment; and

setting, if the computed segment deadhead is greater than the segment

deadhead criteria, the first load as unfit for assignment to the first

segment.

33. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the stages further comprise:

compute the total tour deadhead that would result from assigning the first

load to the first segment; and

if the computed total tour deadhead is greater than the load deadhead

criteria, set the first load as unfit for assignment to the first

segment.

34. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the stages further comprise:

computing the total tour mileage that would result from assigning the first

load to the first segment; and

setting, if the computed total tour mileage is greater than the tour mileage

criteria, the first load as unfit for assignment to the first segment.

35-39. (Canceled)